

DDT-852-69

27 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Draft National Security Council Memorandum of
18 March Titled, "World-wide Base Study"**

1. After discussing with John Bross his memorandum of 21 March, "Draft Directive for Issuance by the NSC on the Subject: World-wide Base Study", I prepared a revised paragraph to replace paragraph 3 of the original directive (attached). This paragraph was designed to assign the contemplated study on intelligence to the Director of Central Intelligence for his undertaking with an interagency group. I then discussed the matter with Morton Halperin, saying in effect that because the contemplated study cut directly athwart the DCI's statutory responsibilities it seemed to me an open-and-shut matter. I urged that the substitute language be inserted in the directive without any requirement for discussion. Halperin accepted this proposition, and I sent him the revised language.

2. After further discussion in the NSC Staff, an alternative proposal emerged. This proposal is to strike all reference to a continuation of the intelligence study in the present directive. The follow-on proposal would be that after the overall base study had been completed and after the Packard posture review had been completed, a full review of the intelligence implications of these two studies would be undertaken under the aegis of the DCI.

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3. I accepted this proposition with the understanding that it would be presented by Henry Kissinger to the Review Group at its 27 March meeting. I pointed out that we were in no particular rush to undertake a study of this magnitude at this time and would prefer to do it when the other factors bearing on the problem became available.

151-11-3-1

R. J. SMITH
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment
Proposed Revised
Paragraph 3

RJS:yd

Distribution:

Orig - Director
1 - Mr. John Bross
① - Mr. Bruce Clarke
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